c) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 53, 54 and 60 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Kindly amend claims 48, 51, 53-54, 57, 61, 67, 68, 71, 73 as follows. The status of all claims is presented below.

1. - 47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising: an image-bearing member, a charging means for charging the image-bearing member, an electrostatic latent-image forming means forming an electrostatic latent image on the charged image-bearing member, a developing means including a toner-carrying member for transferring a magnetic toner carried on the toner-carrying member onto the electrostatic latent image to form a toner image thereon, and a transfer means for electrostatically transferring the toner image on the image-bearing member onto a transfer material via or without via an intermediate transfer member,

wherein the charging means comprises a charging member supplied with a voltage and abutted against the image-bearing member to form a contact nip with the image-bearing member,

the charging member is selected from the group consisting of (i) a roller member having a volume resistivity of 10^3 - 10^8ohm.cm, ~~an Asker C hardness of at most 50 deg~~, (ii) an electroconductive brush member supplied with a voltage to charge the image-bearing member, and (iii) a charging member having a magnetic brush formed of

magnetically constrained magnetic particles having a volume-basis median diameter of 10-50μm,

the image-bearing member comprises an electroconductive support and a photoconductor layer comprising a silicon-based non-single crystal material and disposed on the electroconductive support, and is charged to a potential of 250 to 600 volts in terms of an absolute value via the charging member abutted against it,

the magnetic toner includes magnetic toner particles comprising at least a binder resin, a wax and a magnetic iron oxide, and inorganic fine powder and electroconductive fine powder present at the surface of the magnetic toner particles,

the magnetic toner has a weight-average particle size of 4-8 [[3 - 10]] μm, the magnetic toner has an average circularity of 0.950 to 0.995,

and the magnetic toner contains ~~0.05~~ 0.10 to ~~3.00~~ 1.50 % of isolated iron-containing particles, the electroconductive fine powder has a volume-average particle size of 0.8 to 5 μm, and

the wax is present in the magnetic toner in a proportion of 0.1 to 20 wt. % based on the total weight of the magnetic toner.

49. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the developing means also functions as a means for recovering a portion of the magnetic toner remaining on the image-bearing member after transferring the toner image onto the transfer material.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein by the charging means, the image-bearing member is charged to a potential of 250 to 500 volts in terms of an absolute value.

52. (Cancelled).

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein a surfacemost layer of the image bearing member comprises a non-single crystal carbon hydride film.

55. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the charging means is a means for charging the image-bearing member by abutting the charging member against the image-bearing member via electroconductive fine powder.

56. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the electroconductive fine powder is present at a density of at least 10^3 particles/mm^2.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the image-bearing member is charged while moving the image-bearing member and the charging member so as to provide a relative speed difference between surface moving speeds of these members at the contact position.

58. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the image-bearing member and the charging member are moved in mutually opposite surface moving directions at the contact position.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Cancelled)\

61. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the charging member is ~~a~~ the roller member having a surface provided with minute cells providing an average spherical cell diameter of 5 - 300 μm and a void areal percentage at the surface of 15 - 90 %.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the charging member is supplied with a DC voltage alone or in superposition with an AC

voltage having a peak-to-peak voltage of below 2 x Vth relative to a discharge initiation voltage Vth in DC voltage application.

64. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the charging member is supplied with a DC voltage alone or in superposition with an AC voltage having a peak-to-peak voltage of below Vth relative to a discharge initiation voltage Vth in DC voltage application.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the magnetic particles of the charging member having the magnetic brush have a volume resistivity of $1x10^4$- $1x10^9$ ohm.cm.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein in the developing means, the magnetic toner is carried in a layer at a density of 5 - 50 g/m^2 on the toner-carrying member to develop the electrostatic latent image on the image-bearing member.

69. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein in the developing means, the magnetic toner is carried on the toner-carrying member in an amount regulated by a ferromagnetic metal blade disposed opposite to and with a small gap from the toner-carrying member.

70. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein in the developing means, the toner-carrying member is disposed opposite to and with a gap of 100 - 1000 μm from the image-bearing member.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein in the developing means, the magnetic toner is disposed on the toner-carrying member in a layer thickness smaller than a closest gap between the toner-carrying member and the image-bearing member, and is transferred onto the image-bearing member to develop the electrostatic latent image thereon.

72. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein in the developing means, a developing bias voltage comprising at least an AC voltage is applied so as to form an alternating electric field between the toner-carrying member and the image-bearing member, wherein the alternating electric field has a peak-to-peak intensity of $3x10^6$- $1x10^7$ V/m and a frequency of 100 - 5000 Hz.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the transfer means includes a transfer member abutted against the image-bearing member via the transfer material to transfer the toner image from the image bearing member onto the transfer material.